

## NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF  
**ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL**

THE COLON TUBE AND THE HIGH ENEMA.—The question of how far the soft rubber colon tube can be inserted into the bowel to administer an effective high injection is taken up in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, by H. W. Soper, who describes experiments performed by him in which the position of the tube was verified by the X-ray. Sixty cases were examined where it was attempted to pass long blunt end soft rubber tubes, with side openings, into the rectum, the patient being in the knee-chest and side positions. The only case in which he succeeded in passing the tube above the dome of the rectum was one of Hirschsprung's disease or congenital idiopathic dilatation and hypertrophy of the colon, and even here it was necessary to use the sigmoidoscope to introduce the tube. He thinks it is only in cases of abnormal development of the sigmoid that it is possible to introduce a soft rubber tube higher than six or seven inches in the rectum. A short tube six inches in length is therefore best for all sorts of enemata when using water for fecal evacuation, and it is possible, as he has frequently demonstrated, to thoroughly cleanse the entire colon by using a large calibre (one-half inch) short tube. It is also best when retention of liquid is desired.

MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION IN NEW JERSEY.—The *New York Medical Journal* says: Professor John B. Smith, head of the New Jersey State Entomological Experiment Station, has just finished a tour of inspection of five counties where the lowlands, salt marshes, and meadows have been drained to rid them of mosquitoes, and the unanimous testimony of the residents interviewed was that the salt water mosquito had been practically eliminated. The counties which have been rid of the pest are Essex, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean, the most populous counties in the state. Altogether in the six years since the campaign of mosquito extermination began ten thousand acres of land have been drained, at an expense of \$5 an acre, and not only have the mosquitoes been exterminated, but the land has been rendered valuable for agricultural purposes. In carrying on the work, Professor Smith has also acquired much fresh knowledge regarding the life history of

the salt water mosquito. So successful has been the campaign, that Professor Smith now has the enthusiastic support of local associations of taxpayers in carrying on the work, though in the beginning he worked practically alone.

**IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVE MUSCULAR EXERCISE IN THE RESTORATION OF FUNCTION.**—The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* in an article by C. Hermann Bucholz says in part: The most important effect which active exercises produce is the restoration of normal joint action. Active movements are valuable, therefore, in restoring the function of joints, by their early use preventing much of the loss of function which results from long use of fixation methods. Among the internal organs the function of which may be restored, or at least improved, by gymnastics should be mentioned especially the lungs and pleuræ. The principles of such exercises are the following: strengthening the respiratory muscles to promote deep breathing, in order to force all parts of the lungs and pleuræ to take part in the function, and also to improve the circulation in the lungs; deep inspiration together with resistance movements of the trunk and upper extremities will favor the expectoration in chronic bronchitis and loosen adhesions in pleuritis. Among other diseases which are amenable to active exercise treatment may be mentioned diabetes, obesity, and constipation. In the future many conditions, in which heretofore reliance has been largely placed upon drugs, will be found to be satisfactorily amenable to treatment along the line of active muscular exercises. More lasting results may be expected from these methods, which call into action the restorative and conservative forces within the human body itself.

**MAGNESIUM SULPHATE IN TETANUS.**—The *Medical Record*, quoting from the *Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, says: McPhedron reports a case of tetanus in a boy of thirteen. The incubation period was seven days. For ten days chloral and morphine were given, with no improvement. On the tenth day antitetanic serum was used. The boy grew worse. On the twelfth day 2 c.c. of a 25 per cent. solution of magnesium sulphate were injected intraspinally and 3 c.c. more the next morning. There were no further convulsions, and the boy improved steadily and recovered. McPhedron says that to date eleven cases of tetanus treated by this method of Metzler have been reported, with six recoveries.

**DESTROYING FLIES.**—At a meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine Dr. George Dock, of New Orleans, said that he had kept his laboratory free from flies by using a 10 per cent. solution of

formalin, with a little sugar added, in soup plates standing about the room. The odor could not be perceived but the flies were absolutely destroyed.

**VERONAL POISONING.**—Dr. John L. Eckel, writing in the *New York Medical Journal*, says: Mild cases get well without treatment. If seen early stomach lavage should be practised. Castor oil and enemata are indicated for the bowels; when necessary urinary flow must be kept up by hypodermoclysis; cardiac and respiratory failure calls for caffeine or camphor, with warm baths or cold sponges as adjuvants.

#### CURRENT LITERATURE OF INTEREST TO NURSES

*Medical Record*, July 3, "The Campaign against the House Fly," editorial; July 10, "Leprosy," L. Duncan Bulkley; July 31, "Deceit as a Therapeutic Measure;" August 14, "Eruptions after Abdominal Operations;" August 28, "Pellagra, with Report of Nine Cases," by Eugene D. Bondurant, M.D. *New York Medical Journal*, August 7, "The Action of Chloroform on the Kidneys;" August 14, "The Presence of Tercle Bacilli in the Urine of Tuberculous Patients," Dr. E. J. G. Beardsley; August 21, "Leprosy," C. A. Penrose, M.D.; August 28, "Mind and its Relation to Heredity," Charles F. Clowe, M.D. *Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*, August, "The Employment of Arrested Cases of Tuberculosis," A. M. Forster, M.D. *Maryland Medical Journal*, August, "Some New Methods for the Diagnosis of Typhoid Fever." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, July 10, "Food Intoxication in Childhood," John Ruhrah, M.D., James B. McElroy, M.D., "Boils," "Bacteria in Top Milk," editorial; July 31, "Tropical Diseases," August 14, "Help the Mother Nurse the Child," Maurice Ostheimer, M.D.; August 21, "Aseptic Mittens," Franklin Brady, M.D.; September 4, "The General Practitioner as an Anæsthetist," Douglas C. Moriarta, M.D.; September 11, "Disposal of Sputum," William J. Manning, M.D., "Infantile Eczema," Isaac A. Abt, M.D. *The Survey*, June 19, "Bellevue's Day Camp for Tuberculosis Children;" July 24, "New York City's Model Milk Company;" August 7, "The Mother and the Baby," Wilbur C. Phillips, "Strawberries, Strawberries," Ellen L. LaMotte. *The Outlook*, August 28, "The Origin and Evolution of Mental Healing," H. Addington Bruce; September 4, "Mental Healing To-day," H. Addington Bruce. *The Century*, August, "The War upon the Great White Plague," Irving Fisher. *McClure's Magazine*, July, "What We Know about Cancer," Burton J. Hendrick. *The British Journal of Nursing*, July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 14, 21, "The International Congress of Nurses."